

Lexington City Schools  
Minutes  
October 14, 2020

The Lexington City School Board met on October 14, 2020, at 5:30 pm via Zoom video conference. Present: Timothy Diette, Owen Collins, Tammy Dunn, Mollie Fox, Glenn Sullivan, Rebecca Walters-Superintendent, Stephanie Burch-Clerk.

Timothy Diette-Board Chair welcomed everyone and our special guest Dr.Laura Kornegay with the Virginia Department of Health.

Upon motion of Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Dunn, the Board approved the Agenda.

Communications: Ms. Walters recognized October as national principal month and how very fortunate we are to have Melanie Camden, H. Waddell Elementary School principal and Abbott Keesee, Lylburn Downing Middle School principal. Ms. Walters read what national principal month is all about; how principals should seek to honor leadership and advocacy. She presented each with a token of appreciation.

Public Comment: There were two written comments that were read by Mr. Diette, one from Janice Friend and the other from Katie Masey. He thanked the letter writers and everybody in the past that has also written letters to the Board.

Upon motion of Ms. Fox, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, the Board approved the Consent Agenda:

Minutes of September 9, September 30, October 7, 2020  
September Payroll \$307,623.92  
September Expenditures \$171,784.65  
FY 20-21 YTD Expenditures \$1,502,544.66  
Petty Cash

Financial: Tommy Roberts gave an End-of-Year Closeout report with the following carryover amounts:

Textbooks \$352,828.00  
Reserved for future needs (from prior years) \$85,081.00  
Reserved for capital needs (from prior years) \$81,463.00  
Reserved for future high school needs (from prior years) \$307,957.00  
FY 20 Budget Surplus \$51,045.00

This will be monitored on a monthly basis.

Superintendent's Report:

Ms. Walters gave an enrollment update. She outlined the next steps For a Return to In-Person Learning:

Principals and administrators have continued to meet with teachers and staff to discuss the plan to return to in-person learning, working through staffing modifications, instructional plans, schedules, and logistics.

Each school will continue to have conversations during the next few weeks to troubleshoot any concerns or issues and plan for school-specific logistics with reopening.

Meetings with VDOE and VDH have continued with superintendents across the state.

Additional students have joined in-person instruction in our schools based on needs for additional academic support.

#### Timeline For Consideration:

Plan to return to in-person learning 4 days/week with 1 day of at-home learning on Fridays.

Kindergarten and first grade students return the week of October 26th.

Second, third, and sixth grade students return the week of November 9th.

Fourth, fifth, seventh, and eighth grade students return the week of November 16th.

Families may still select for their student(s) to remain 100% virtual.

Families who choose virtual learning for the second quarter will remain virtual through the end of the second quarter, January 28th, 2020.

This plan and timeline is contingent upon no significant changes to community case levels/community outbreaks impacting our school community.

Dr. Laura Kornegay with the Virginia Department of Health provided updates stating that we know more now than we did in March and August. The CDC looks at five things: mask wearing, social distancing (6 ft apart), hand washing, health screening and cleaning (environmentally). Also, the demographics of our area, with two institutes of higher education, makes our risk a little higher. These numbers are not coming from inside the classrooms, but from dorms, greek houses and gatherings outside of the classroom. There is more of a safe haven in K-12 classrooms and because of the precautions being taken. The number of students are favorable as is the cleaning that will take place and bringing students back in groups. There are high risks during eating periods thus lunch outside is good or in the classroom where they are socially distanced. Outside is much safer where there is more air exchange. Health screening prior to going to school is very important and sick folks need to stay at home. It's very important to get back in school for the mental health well being of children and parents.

Dr. Kornegay also described the proper procedure for mask wearing saying that cloth should be tight fitting and worn over the nose and mouth. Ms. Walters stated that the nurses had sent out information on masks and how impressed they had been with the children coming in the schools that are having to wear masks. There may be some cases that a teacher may need to wear a face shield such as the speech pathologist so that the child can see their mouth. VSBA has sent masks to the division. Dr. Kornegay thanked everyone for the time and effort that is going into opening schools in the safest way possible.

Ms. Walters thanked Dr. Kornegay for her time and effort with us and the community.

Ms. Fox gave an update on the Rockbridge County School Board meeting. Rockbridge County Schools gave an update on the budget. ADM was down. They delivered food during the summer and had some reduction in staffing. They will take action on Friday, October 16, 2020, for their Return to In-Person Learning Plan.

No Ad Hoc updates.

The Joint City Council-School Board work session is on October 15, 2020, at 7:00 pm via Zoom video. It was decided to hold the meeting scheduled for October 28, 2020 on November 4, 2020 to see how things are going with the back to in-person learning.

The VSBA Virtual Annual Conference is November 18-20, 2020. Timothy Diette will be attending.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunn, seconded by Ms. Fox, the Board approved the appointment of Alyssa Sewell as a Substitute Teacher and Gerri Rutan as a Paraprofessional at Lylburn Downing Middle School.

Upon motion of Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Fox, the Board adjourned at 7:05 pm.

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Board Chair

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Board Clerk

